

D/SF

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Re Application of:

Breidenbach, et al.

Serial No.: 10/046,347

Group Art Unit: 2173

Filed: October 26, 2001

Examiner: Pillai, Namitha

Docket No. 10010026-1

For: **System And Method For Improving The Performance Of A Plurality Of Peripheral Devices**

RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop: Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed April 19, 2006 has been carefully considered. Applicant submits this Response to the Notice.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees are required to consider this Appeal Brief. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope, with sufficient postage, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450 on:

5/19/06

Stephanie Riley
Signature

REMARKS

In the Notice, the Examiner argues that "the brief does not contain a statement of all claims including claims that have been canceled." In response, Applicant has amended Section III of the revised Brief (attached) to include such a statement. In particular, Section III now provides:

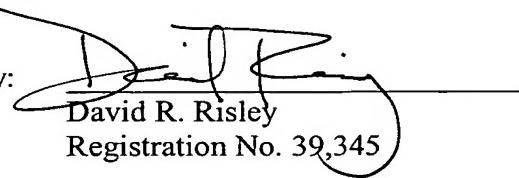
III. Status of Claims

Claims 2, 7, and 12-23 have been canceled leaving claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, and 24-42 remaining. Each of those claims stand finally rejected. No claims have been allowed. The final rejections of claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, and 24-42 are appealed.

In view of the above change, Applicant asserts that the revised Brief is proper and complete. If there are questions about this matter, the undersigned attorney may be contacted at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



David R. Risley
Registration No. 39,345

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In Re Application of:

Breidenbach, et al.

Serial No.: 10/046,347

Filed: October 26, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2173

Examiner: Pillai, Namitha

Docket No. 10010026-1

For: **System And Method For Improving The Performance Of A Plurality Of Peripheral Devices**

REVISED APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

Mail Stop: Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This Appeal Brief under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37 is submitted in support of the Notice of Appeal filed December 2, 2005, responding to the Final Office Action mailed September 9, 2005.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees are required to consider this Appeal Brief. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is Hewlett-Packard Development Company, LP, a limited partnership established under the laws of the State of Texas and having a principal place of business at 20555 S.H. 249 Houston, TX 77070, U.S.A. (hereinafter "HPDC"). HPDC is a Texas limited partnership and is a wholly-owned affiliate of Hewlett-Packard Company, a Delaware Corporation, headquartered in Palo Alto, CA. The general or managing partner of HPDC is HPQ Holdings, LLC.

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no known related appeals or interferences that will affect or be affected by a decision in this Appeal.

III. Status of Claims

Claims 2, 7, and 12-23 have been canceled leaving claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, and 24-42 remaining. Each of those claims stand finally rejected. No claims have been allowed. The final rejections of claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, and 24-42 are appealed.

IV. Status of Amendments

This application was originally filed on October 26, 2001, with twenty-three (23) claims. In a Response filed December 21, 2004, Applicant amended claims 1, 6-8, canceled claims 2, 12-23, and added new claims 24-42. In a Response submitted with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed July 20, 2005, Applicant amended claims 1, 11, and canceled claim 7.

All of the above-identified amendments have been entered and no other amendments have been made to any of claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, and 24-42. The claims in the attached Claims Appendix (see below) reflect the present state of those claims.

V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The claimed inventions are summarized below with reference numerals and references to the written description (“specification”) and drawings. The subject matter described in the following appears in the original disclosure at least where indicated, and may further appear in other places within the original disclosure.

Independent claim 1 describes a system for improving the performance of a plurality of peripheral devices. The system comprises a first peripheral device (102, Fig. 1) comprising a first software component and having a first functionality. Applicant's specification, page 4, lines 16-18. The system further comprises a second peripheral device (104, Fig. 1) comprising a second software component and having a second functionality. Applicant's specification, page 4, lines 18-20. The second peripheral device being coupled to the first peripheral device without an intermediate computing device positioned along the communication path between the peripheral devices. Applicant's specification, page 5, lines 10-11; Figure 4. The first and second peripheral devices together performing a third functionality in addition to the first and second functionalities and having a common user interface. Applicant's specification, page 4, line 21 to page 5, line 9. The first peripheral device comprises a peripheral device display on which can be presented a graphical user interface that presents the third functionality to a user for selection. Applicant's Specification, page 15, line 22 to page 16, line 15.

Independent claim 24 describes a method practiced by a personal computer (PC) (202, Fig. 2) for providing additional functionality from peripheral devices. The method comprises searching for and identifying peripheral devices that are accessible to the PC. Applicant's specification, page 11, line 23 to page 12, line 9; Figure 3, item 304. The method further comprises determining the capabilities of each identified peripheral device using the PC. Applicant's specification, page 12, line 14 to page 13, line 2; Figure 3, item 308. The method further comprises presenting to the user with the PC a functionality that is available through combination of the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices, the functionality being a functionality that is not independently provided by the identified peripheral devices. Applicant's specification, page 13, lines 20-22.

Independent claim 32 describes a personal computer (PC) (202, Fig. 2). The PC comprises a processor (204, Fig. 2). The PC further comprises memory (206, Fig. 2) comprising peripheral device software (210, Fig. 2) that is configured to search for and identify peripheral devices, to determine the capabilities of each identified peripheral device using the PC, and to present to a user a functionality that is available through combination of the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices, the functionality being a functionality that is not independently provided by the identified peripheral devices. Applicant's specification, page 11, line 23 to page 12, line 9; page 12, line 14 to page 13, line 2; page 13, lines 20-22; Figure 3, items 304 and 308.

Independent claim 38 describes a peripheral device (102, 104, and 116; Fig. 2). The device of claim 38 comprises auto recognition logic that is configured to transmit a broadcast message on a network to announce the presence of the peripheral device on the network, receive response signals from compatible peripheral devices also on the network, the response signals comprising information as to the identity

and capabilities of the compatible peripheral devices, and automatically present a functionality option to a user that is only available through combination of the capabilities of the peripheral device and at least one of the compatible peripheral devices. Applicant's specification, page 17, lines 1-3, 5-9, and 14-16; Figure 5, items 504, 508, and 514.

VI. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The following grounds of rejection are to be reviewed on appeal:

1. Claims 1, 3, 5-11, and 24-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Casey, et al. (“Casey,” U.S. Pat. No. 6,452,695).

2. Claims 4 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Casey in view of the Wireless Networks document.

VII. Arguments

The Appellant respectfully submits that Applicant's claims are neither anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102 nor obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and respectfully requests that the Board of Patent Appeals overturn the final rejections of those claims at least for the reasons discussed below.

A. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8-11, 24-28, and 30-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Casey, et al. ("Casey," U.S. Pat. No. 6,452,695). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

It is axiomatic that "[a]nticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under consideration." *W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 1554, 220 USPQ 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Therefore, every claimed feature of the claimed invention must be represented in the applied reference to constitute a proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In the present case, not every feature of the claimed invention is represented in the Casey reference.

1. The Casey Disclosure

Casey discloses a system and method for enabling an image input device and a printer to operate as a digital copier. Casey, Patent Title. The system includes an "adapter device 100" that interconnects a printer 200 with an image input device 300. Casey, column 2, lines 55-62. The architecture of the adapter device is described by Casey in relation to Figure 2 and columns 3-5.

The adapter device includes a central processing unit or “processor” 140, memory 130, an I/O controller 120, and a control panel 110. Casey, column 3, lines 13-33. The control panel 110 comprises buttons 112 and a display 114. Casey, column 3, lines 35-40. As is described by Casey, the adapter device is “preferably packaged such that all of the components, with the exception of the control panel 110, are contained within a housing or on a relatively compact peripheral card device”. Casey, column 4, line 65 to column 5, line 1. Therefore, Casey’s adapter device comprises an independent hardware component that can be used in conjunction with a printer and an image input device.

In addition to the above-described configuration, Casey discloses that the adapter device can be “integrated within a printer 200 or within an image input device 300 to enable direct connection between the peripheral devices (without the need for a host computer) thereby imparting the capability of the digital copier operation described herein.” Casey, column 5, lines 17-21.

2. Applicant’s Claims

(a) Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 8-11

Independent claim 1 provides as follows (emphasis added):

1. A system for improving the performance of a plurality of peripheral devices, comprising:

a first peripheral device comprising a first software component and having a first functionality; and

a second peripheral device comprising a second software component and having a second functionality, the second peripheral device being coupled to the first peripheral device without an intermediate computing device positioned along the communication path between the peripheral devices, the first and second peripheral

devices together performing a third functionality in addition to the first and second functionalities and having a common user interface

wherein the first peripheral device comprises a peripheral device display on which can presented a graphical user interface that presents the third functionality to a user for selection.

Applicant notes that Casey does not teach a first peripheral device that comprises a peripheral device display that can be used to present a “graphical user interface” to a user that “presents the third functionality to a user for selection”. Instead, as is described above, Casey teaches, and only teaches, an *independent adapter device* that can be added to an image input device. As is also described above, Casey’s adapter device comprises its *own* control panel with its *own* display 114. It therefore logically follows that no graphical user interface is presented to the user *in the peripheral device display*. Even assuming, for sake of argument, that a graphical user interface is presented to a user in the Casey system, such an interface would be presented in Casey’s control panel display 114, *not* a display of Casey’s image input device 300.

Regarding the Examiner’s comments contained in the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action of September 9, 2005, Applicant notes that while Casey teaches a “control panel,” described is the control panel of the “adapter device” and *not* of Casey’s printer, which presumably has its own control panel and display. In other words, Casey’s teaching of “integrating” the adapter device into the printer falls short of teaching *replacing* an existing printer control panel and display with those of the adapter device, and further presenting copier functions on that display. For all the reader knows, Casey’s “integration” of the adapter device with the printer comprises mounting the adapter device, control panel and all, on the printer. In such a case, copying functions would be controlled using the control panel of the adapter device and not those of the printer. Regardless, Casey is silent as to what such “integration” comprises and,

therefore, Casey actually fails to teach “a peripheral device display on which can presented a graphical user interface that presents the third functionality to a user for selection” as is explicitly required by claim 1.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicant submits that claim 1, and its dependents, are allowable over Casey. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that rejection be overturned.

With specific regard to dependent claim 3, Casey does not teach first and second peripheral devices that are “coupled via a network”. Although Casey shows a network 400 that is connected to the adapter device 100 in Figure 1, the printer 200 and the image input device 300 communicate directly via the adapter device. *No* network is used for such communication.

Regarding the Examiner’s comments provided in the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action regarding coupling to a network, Applicant clarifies for the record that Applicant never argued that Casey fails to teach network communications. However, it is clear that Casey does *not* teach that the printer 200 and the image input device 300 communicate using Casey’s network. Again, as is shown in Casey’s Figure 1, the printer and image input device are directly connected to each other and, therefore, no network connection is needed. If claim 3 is to be rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the prior art reference must actually teach each limitation of the claim. Casey clearly does not.

Regarding dependent claim 8, Casey does not teach software components of first and second peripheral devices exchanging information “over a network” for reasons described above in relation to claim 3.

(b) Claims 24-28, 30, and 31

Independent claim 24 provides as follows (emphasis added):

24. A method *practiced by a personal computer (PC)* for providing additional functionality from peripheral devices, the method comprising:

searching for and identifying peripheral devices that are accessible to the PC;

determining the capabilities of each identified peripheral device using the PC; and

presenting to the user with the PC a functionality that is available through combination of the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices, the functionality being a functionality that is not independently provided by the identified peripheral devices.

As a first matter in regard to claim 24, Casey does not teach a method for providing additional functionality from peripheral devices “practiced by a personal computer (PC)”. It is clear from Casey’s disclosure (described above) that Casey’s “adapter device” is not a personal computer. If it were, Casey would have described the adapter device as being a “PC,” as Casey described component 410 in Figure 1.

Not only is Casey’s adapter device not a personal computer, Casey further explicitly *teaches away* from such an arrangement. As is noted above, Casey states that the adapter device can be “integrated within a printer 200 or within an image input device 300 to enable direct connection between the peripheral devices (*without the need for a host computer*) thereby imparting the capability of the digital copier operation described herein.” Casey, column 5, lines 17-21 (emphasis added). Clearly if the “adapter device” can be integrated within an image input device, such as a digital camera, the adapter cannot be a personal computer. Moreover, Casey explicitly

advocates communication between the peripheral devices “without the need for a host computer,” PC or otherwise.

Casey further does not teach the action of “searching for and identifying peripheral devices that are accessible to the PC”, as is also required by claim 24. Simply stated, Casey provides no such disclosure.

Regarding the Examiner’s comments in the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action as to the “PC” limitation, Applicant notes for the record that Applicant never argued that Casey “does not disclose a PC.” Instead, Applicant simply identified that Casey fails to teach a PC that *practices the actions recited in claim 24*. Specifically, PC 410 disclosed by Casey is not described as “searching for and identifying peripheral devices that are accessible to the PC”, “determining the capabilities of each identified peripheral device using the PC”, or “presenting to the user with the PC a functionality that is available through combination of the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices, the functionality being a functionality that is not independently provided by the identified peripheral devices”. Again, Casey explicitly *teaches away* from a PC implementation.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 24, and its dependents, are allowable over Casey. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection as to claims 24-31 be overturned.

With specific regard to dependent claim 25, Casey clearly does not disclose “automatically querying all peripheral devices on a network to which the PC is connected”. Column 4, lines 50-64 of the Casey reference, which were identified in the final Office Action, do not provide such a teaching.

Regarding dependent claim 27, Casey says nothing about storing information in a “registry of the PC”. As for the Examiner’s comments in the Response to Arguments

section of the Office Action, Applicant notes that the Examiner fails to identify where Casey teaches storing information in a “registry” of a PC. Applicant submits that the Examiner should identify in the Examiner’s Answer, with explicit column and line number citation, where this teaching exists in the Casey reference.

Regarding dependent claim 30, Casey say nothing about displaying a “complete set of tasks that can be performed through combination of the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices”.

(c) Claims 32-42

Independent claim 32 provides as follows (emphasis added):

32. A *personal computer (PC)*, comprising:

a processor; and

memory comprising peripheral device software that is *configured to search for and identify peripheral devices*, to determine the capabilities of each identified peripheral device using the PC, and to present to a user a functionality that is available through combination of the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices, the functionality being a functionality that is not independently provided by the identified peripheral devices.

Regarding claim 32, Casey does not teach a “personal computer (PC)” that performs any of the actions described in claim 32. See discussion of claim 24 above. Moreover, as is also noted above, Casey does not teach any device that is configured to “search for and identify peripheral devices”. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 32, and its dependents, are allowable over Casey. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection as to claims 32-37 be overturned.

With specific regard to dependent claim 33, Casey clearly does not disclose a device that is configured to “automatically query all peripheral devices on a network to which the PC is connected”. See the discussion of claim 25 above.

Regarding dependent claim 36, Casey says nothing about displaying a “complete set of tasks that can be performed through combination of the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices”. See the discussion of claim 30 above.

(d) Claims 38-42

Independent claim 38 provides as follows (emphasis added):

38. A peripheral device, comprising:

auto recognition logic that is configured to:

transmit a broadcast message on a network to announce the presence of the peripheral device on the network,

receive response signals from compatible peripheral devices also on the network, the response signals comprising information as to the identity and capabilities of the compatible peripheral devices, and

automatically present a functionality option to a user that is only available through combination of the capabilities of the peripheral device and at least one of the compatible peripheral devices.

Regarding claim 38, nothing in the Casey disclosure teaches transmitting a “broadcast message on a network to announce the presence of the peripheral device on the network”. Applicant therefore submits that claim 38, and its dependents, are allowable over Casey, and respectfully requests the rejection as to claims 38-42 be overturned.

As for the Examiner’s comments in the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action, Applicant notes that the Examiner fails to identify where Casey teaches

transmitting a “broadcast message” to announce the presence of the peripheral device. Applicant submits that the Examiner should identify in the Examiner’s Answer, with explicit column and line number citations, where this teaching exists in the Casey reference.

B. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

1. Rejection of Claim 4

As has been acknowledged by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO”) has the burden under section 103 to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness by showing some objective teaching in the prior art or generally available knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art that would lead that individual to the claimed invention. *See In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 1074, 5 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988). The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) section 2143 discusses the requirements of a *prima facie* case for obviousness. That section provides as follows:

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant’s disclosure.

In the present case, the prior art at least does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Casey in view of the Wireless Networks document. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As is identified above, Casey fails to teach several explicit limitations of Applicant's claim 1. In that the Wireless Networks document does not remedy the deficiencies of the Casey reference, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4, which depends from claim 1, is allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable over Casey. Applicant therefore requests that the rejection of claim 4 be overturned.

2. Rejection of Claim 29

Claim 29 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Casey. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

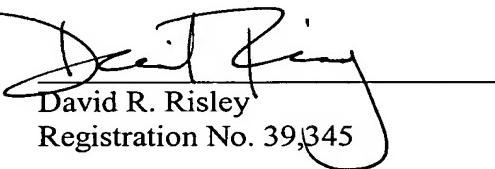
As is identified above, Casey fails to teach several explicit limitations of Applicant's claim 24. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 29 is allowable over Casey for at least the same reasons that claim 24 is allowable over Casey. Applicant therefore requests that the rejection of claim 29 be overturned.

VII. Conclusion

In summary, it is Applicant's position that Applicant's claims are patentable over the applied prior art references and that the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn. Appellant therefore respectfully requests that the Board of Appeals overturn the Examiner's rejection and allow Applicant's pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



David R. Risley
Registration No. 39,345

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope, with sufficient postage, addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA,
22313-1450 on:

5/19/06
Stephanie Risley
Signature

Claims Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(viii)

The following are the claims that are involved in this Appeal.

1. A system for improving the performance of a plurality of peripheral devices, comprising:

a first peripheral device comprising a first software component and having a first functionality; and

a second peripheral device comprising a second software component and having a second functionality, the second peripheral device being coupled to the first peripheral device without an intermediate computing device positioned along the communication path between the peripheral devices, the first and second peripheral devices together performing a third functionality in addition to the first and second functionalities and having a common user interface

wherein the first peripheral device comprises a peripheral device display on which can be presented a graphical user interface that presents the third functionality to a user for selection.

2. (Canceled)

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second peripheral devices are coupled via a network.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second peripheral devices are coupled via a wireless network.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second peripheral devices are coupled directly to each other.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the first peripheral device is a scanner and the second peripheral device is a printer and the third functionality is a copying functionality.

7. (Canceled)

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the first software component of the first peripheral device and the second software component of the second peripheral device allow the first and second peripheral devices to exchange information over a network pertaining to the identity of the first peripheral device and the second peripheral device.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the information exchanged between the first and second peripheral devices further comprises information relating to the capabilities of the first peripheral device and the second peripheral device.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the first peripheral device modifies its capabilities based on the information received from the second peripheral device.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the first peripheral device presents to a user with the graphical user interface a menu of available functionality based on the information received from the second peripheral device.

12-23. (Canceled)

24. A method practiced by a personal computer (PC) for providing additional functionality from peripheral devices, the method comprising:

searching for and identifying peripheral devices that are accessible to the PC;

determining the capabilities of each identified peripheral device using the PC;

and

presenting to the user with the PC a functionality that is available through combination of the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices, the functionality being a functionality that is not independently provided by the identified peripheral devices.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein determining the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices comprises automatically querying all peripheral devices on a network to which the PC is connected.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein determining the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices further comprises receiving information from peripheral device software provided on each identified peripheral device.

27. The method of claim 24, further comprising storing information about the peripheral device capabilities in a registry of the PC.

28. The method of claim 24, wherein presenting a functionality to the user comprises presenting the functionality to the user with a graphical user interface (GUI) on a display associated with the PC.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the GUI comprises a pull-down menu.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the GUI displays the complete set of tasks that can be performed through combination of the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices.

31. The method of claim 24, wherein presenting a functionality to the user comprises presenting a copying functionality that is available due to a scanning capability of a scanner and a printing capability of a printer.

32. A personal computer (PC), comprising:
a processor; and
memory comprising peripheral device software that is configured to search for and identify peripheral devices, to determine the capabilities of each identified peripheral device using the PC, and to present to a user a functionality that is available through combination of the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices, the functionality being a functionality that is not independently provided by the identified peripheral devices.

33. The PC of claim 32, wherein the peripheral device software is configured to automatically query all peripheral devices on a network to which the PC is connected.

34. The PC of claim 32, wherein the peripheral device software is configured to store information about the peripheral device capabilities in a registry of the PC.

35. The PC of claim 32, wherein the peripheral device software is configured to present the functionality to the user with a graphical user interface (GUI) on a display associated with the PC.

36. The PC of claim 35, wherein the GUI displays the complete set of tasks that can be performed through combination of the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices.

37. The PC of claim 32, wherein the peripheral device software is configured to present a copying functionality that is available due to a scanning capability of a scanner and a printing capability of a printer.

38. A peripheral device, comprising:

auto recognition logic that is configured to:

transmit a broadcast message on a network to announce the presence of the peripheral device on the network,

receive response signals from compatible peripheral devices also on the network, the response signals comprising information as to the identity and capabilities of the compatible peripheral devices, and

automatically present a functionality option to a user that is only available through combination of the capabilities of the peripheral device and at least one of the compatible peripheral devices.

39. The peripheral device of claim 38, wherein the auto-recognition logic comprises a software component that is configured to modify a capability of the peripheral device based upon the information received from the compatible peripheral devices.

40. The peripheral device of claim 38, wherein the auto-recognition logic presents the functionality option to the user in a graphical user interface (GUI) of the peripheral device.

41. The peripheral device of claim 38, wherein the peripheral device is a scanner and the functionality is a copying functionality.

42. The peripheral device of claim 38, wherein the peripheral device is a digital camera and the functionality is image printing.

Evidence Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(ix)

There is no extrinsic evidence to be considered in this Appeal. Therefore, no evidence is presented in this Appendix.

Related Proceedings Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(x)

There are no related proceedings to be considered in this Appeal. Therefore, no such proceedings are identified in this Appendix.